



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE
***LOGAN CITY PLEADS GUILTY
TO DISCHARGING POLLUTANT INTO
WATER; FINED \$10,000
FOR MISDEMEANOR VIOLATION***

SALT LAKE CITY – Logan City Municipal Corporation pleaded guilty Tuesday in U.S. District Court to a Misdemeanor Information charging the city with discharging a pollutant into waters of the United States. According to the Information, a city employee negligently pumped several thousand gallons of polluted water from the Logan City Landfill into a ditch which eventually drained into Cutler Reservoir.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Brooke Wells fined the city \$10,000 for the violation.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, the conviction is a violation of the Clean Water Act, enacted by Congress to maintain the quality of the nation's water and to prevent, reduce, and eliminate water pollution.

Randall Cook, former manager of the Logan City Landfill, admitted that in May 2005, while he was the landfill manager, he became aware that because of a heavy rainfall at the landfill, a pollutant had been created by water percolating through the garbage. The contaminated water was accumulating in a ditch running alongside a road at the landfill. In an effort to clear the ditch, Cook said he pumped the contaminated water through a culvert across the road where the polluted water flowed into a drain and ultimately into Cutler Reservoir which is considered “waters of the United States.”

Cook, who was charged in a separate case, pleaded guilty a year ago to discharging pollutants into water. He was sentenced in April 2009 to 60 days in the custody of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, with all but two days suspended. He was fined \$3,000 and is on probation for 30 months.

According to EPA investigators involved in the case, water that comes into contact with waste in a landfill can contain many toxic pollutants that are toxic to aquatic life.

“Runoff contaminated with leachate from municipal and industrial wastes must be managed appropriately to avoid the risk of polluting ground or surface water or harming people, fish, or wildlife,” said Lori Hanson, Special Agent in Charge for the EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division in Denver. “If you disregard your obligation to obey the law, you will be prosecuted.”

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